

GEORGIA BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
July 12, 2007

The Georgia Board of Massage Therapy Committee meeting was held on July 12, 2007, 09:00 a.m., at The Professional Licensing Boards Division offices located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

The following members were present:

Jane H. Johnson, Chairman
Melony Phillips, Cognizant
Steve Earles

Absent:

Kathy Lescak, Vice Chair
Marlene Gaskill, Consumer Member

Administrative Staff Present:

Serena Gadson, Application Specialist II, Yvonne LeSane, Application Specialist, Pam Candler, Application Specialist and Amanda Allen, Board Secretary.

Administrative Staff Absent:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Becky Adams, Assistant Attorney General

Ms. Johnson called the Committee meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Ms. Phillips moved and Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2) to receive information pertaining to Applications. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members Phillips, Earles, and Johnson. The Board concluded Executive Session in order to vote on these matters and to continue with the public session.

Ms. Gadson informed the sub-committee that she had spoken to Mr. Paul Parker with the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork; and they have agreed to send the National Exam results to the Professional Licensing Boards Division twice a month electronically. The results will be available for downloading by the Application Specialist on the 15th and 30th of every month. Recommendations will be made to the full Board during the July 13, 2007 conference call.

Correspondences

The sub-committee reviewed the following correspondence: Recommendations will be made to the full Board during the July 13, 2007 Conference Call.

Ms. Sheela Eichorn, Hinesville Massage Clinic- Will the Board issue provisional permits? (43-24A-9)

Board Response- the Board voted on April 20, 2007 not to issue provisional permits at this time.

Ms. Stephanie Hu- If applying by reciprocity, must an applicant be a US citizen or permanent residence of the United States? Will the Board pre-approve a Massage Therapist for licensure before they complete the Application for Licensure?

Board Response- Per O.C.G.A. § 43-24A-8, on or after July 01, 2007 any applicant that is applying for licensure must be a United States citizen or a permanent resident of the United States. Anyone that is interested in working in the state of Georgia as a Massage Therapist must complete an Application for Licensure and submit all the required documentations for Board review. The Board does not pre-approve anyone for licensure.

Policy Discussion:

Ms Serena Gadson, Application Specialist II, requested that the Board begin identifying which states the Board would accept reciprocity for licensure.

The Board determined that a policy would not be developed at this time. Applications submitted by reciprocity would be considered on a case by case basis.

Ms. Gadson addressed the Board with her concerns of the importance of developing a policy for applicants who apply for licensure with an arrest/conviction, or a felony conviction on their background report. Ms. Gadson addressed the importance of being consistent with individuals who have arrests/convictions, and the Board's responsibility to protect the public.

Ms. Gadson recommended to the Board to develop a policy, with the assistance and legal advice from the Assistance Attorney General, indicating any applicant with numerous arrest/convictions, and any felony would require Board approval.

Any arrest/conviction that is greater than a five-year period, minus, any felony charges, would not require Board approval, unless it was a pattern of similar arrest/convictions.

Any applicant who does not disclose an arrest/conviction would require a review by the Board, and possible disciplinary action. All applicants will be issued a standard letter of concern, pending there are no other arrest after the five year period.

Recommendations on both policies will be made to the full Board during the July 13, 2007 Conference Call.

Educational Advisor's Report

The Educational Advisor offered her suggestions on approving Cortiva Institute as a Board Approved Massage Therapy Educational Program. Recommendations will be made to the full Board during the July 13, 2007 Conference Call.

Applications:

The sub-committee of the Board reviewed all applicant applications. Recommendations will be made to the full Board during the July 13, 2007 Conference Call.

Additional Business

Ms. Johnson made her recommendations to table the discussion on drafting a response letter back Governor Sunny Perdue, in reference to the letter he received from Mr. Gary Lescak, Martial Arts Academy, until the next scheduled Board meeting. Ms. Johnson stated she would like the input of the full Board when drafting the response letter back to the Governor.

There being no additional business to discuss, Ms. Phillips moved, Mr. Earles seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn today's meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Amanda Allen, Board Secretary

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Serena Gadson, Application Specialist II

Jane H. Johnson, Chair
Georgia State Board of Massage Therapy

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved and signed on: _____.